

**Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

The OSCILLATOR

JUNE 2009

Issue 2009:06
Our 31st Year

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone. An amateur radio license is not required.

Steve Sanders KE7JSS Honored by ARRL

When the ARRL Public Relations Committee, led by Bill Morine N2COP, met in April, they discussed recognizing those ARRL Public Information Officers (PIO) whose actions are exemplary. From that meeting, The PIO Excellence Award came into being. This award is given when the committee believes an ARRL PIO has gone above and beyond in ensuring that the role of Amateur Radio is explained to media and the public, especially in unanticipated situations in the field.

ARES District 1 Public Information Officer Steve Sanders KE7JSS, was praised for taking the lead to ensure that media in the Pacific Northwest knew about the vital role Amateur Radio played in supplying emergency communications. After other forms of communications were compromised in December 2007 by fierce storms, flooding and mudslides ravaged the area and shut down roads and highways, including Interstate 5. Other infrastructure, such as telephone lines and electricity, were obliterated.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts W1AGP said that due to his action, many media outlets ran stories about the response of Amateur Radio operators in each situation. "The role of the PIO is far more than club newsletter, or even press releases. Being at the right place at the right time, presenting our story to the media, is critical to the future of Amateur Radio. These three hams went above and beyond to ensure that our story was told in a way that was easy to understand in a critical situation."

WASHCO ARES JOINS OTVARC FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES JUNE 26 - 28

At the May Washington County ARES meeting, the group voted to join with OTVARC members in support of 2009 Field Day efforts at Stub Stewart State Park. OTVARC President Robert Crocker (W7NO) welcomed the decision saying, "Many of our OTVARC members also play a very active role in support of Washington County ARES and it will be great to have the additional trained operators available, especially when it comes to NTS traffic handling."

Other recent developments include donation of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) by Washington County based Metro West Ambulance. They have also donated training of our safety committee in using the devices.

Please remember to contact Ron O'Connor (KD7VIK) to make sure you're signed up for a operator shift. He may be contacted at ronocon@verizon.net. As usual he is looking for HF phone and digital mode operators and loggers.

See Field Day, Page 4

CLUB MEETING

**Wednesday,
June 10th**

Our club meeting will be held at The Peppermill Restaurant, 17455 SW Farmington Road in Beaverton on Wednesday, June 10th. Come at 6:00 PM and order off the menu. Our Club Meeting begins at 7:00 PM. We will hear from our Field Day Team, led by JD Fort K7JDF.

Family members and friends are welcome to come with you. Guests are always welcome and an amateur radio license is not required.

Check out our web site: www.otvarc.org for more information.

A Tale of Two Tubes

By Dan Romnanchik KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago, I worked N4QR on 40m CW. I could tell by the tone of his signal that he was operating a homebrew transmitter. There wasn't any 60 Hz on his signal, and it didn't chirp exactly, but I could tell it wasn't the pure tone you get out of today's radios.

I asked him about his rig, and he told me that it was a one-tube transmitter made with a 6L6. I forgot to ask him where he got the schematic, but a quick Internet search turned up the following:

- * The May 2005 issue of the K9YA Telegraph (<http://www.k9ya.org>) has an article written by N4QR titled, "The Wonderful One-Tuber," that contains the schematic for the transmitter. The K9YA folks don't make issues of The Telegraph available on their website, but I was able to get a copy of the issue by e-mailing them.

- * A 6L6 Classic (<http://www.io.com/~nielw/6l6/6L6.htm>)

- * WB2MIC 6L6 Transmitter Project (http://www.metaphoria.us/hamradio/6L6_transmitter_schematic.htm)

The 6L6 is a pentode that, according to Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6L6>), was introduced by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in July 1936. Apparently, it was used quite a bit in public address systems.

After the tube became successful, tube manufacturers introduced a number of variations, including the venerable 807. The original 6L6 was capable of delivering 19 W; the latest variation, the 6L6GC is rated for 30 W. The 6L6GC is still used in guitar amps, and is still manufactured in Russia, China, and by Groove Tubes (www.groovetubes.com) in the U.S. They sell a number of different 6L6 variants; the cheapest is \$16, the most expensive \$180!!

Tube #2

One of the reasons I was interested in the 6L6 is because about a year ago I came across a schematic for a transmitter using 6A6 dual triode. I had just come into possession of a couple hundred tubes, and while I didn't have a 6A6 (at least I haven't found one yet), I do have a couple of 6J6 dual triodes. They're not quite as high power as the 6A6, but I'm still thinking about building a little transmitter with one.

As you might expect, there's a bunch of information on the Internet about this tube:

- * The Jones Push-Pull Transmitter (http://wv7g.home.mindspring.com/jones_6j6.html) was built with a 6J6 instead of a 6A6.

- * Another schematic can be found on the AKOB website (<http://www.qsl.net/ak0b/>).

- * 6 J 6 d a t a s h e e t (<http://www.gargnas.net:3000/tubedata/6J6.pdf>) from the GE data book.

One interesting fact about the 6J6 is that IBM used it in the 604 computer. Unfortunately, they found it to be not as reliable as they wanted it to be, but at first none of the tube manufacturers were interested in making a more robust version. This led IBM to set up a tube-making laboratory where they could experiment with designs. They developed a more reliable version of the 6J6 and finally convinced RCA to manufacture the tube. According to the author of the history of the 604 (<http://ed-thelen.org/comp-hist/IBM-604.html#new>), part of the concern is that IBM would decide to get into the tube business.

So, the next time you hear a signal that doesn't sound so perfect, remember that there just might be a story behind it. Ask the op about his transmitter, and listen to what he or she has to say.

When not pondering the mysteries of vacuum tube part numbers, KB6NU teaches ham classes, works CW on the HF bands, and blogs about ham radio at <http://www.kb6nu.com>.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS

Recent session yielded:

February 7

18 applicants earned 8 Technicians, 6 Generals, and 2 Extras. Two applicants will study more and try again.

March 7

11 applicants earned 4 Technicians, 3 Generals, and 1 Extra. Three to hit the books and test again later.

April 4

100% success at this session with 9 applicants earning 4 Technicians, 4 Generals, and 1 Extra.

May 2

Another 100% session with 10 applicants earning 6 Technicians and 4 Generals.

Thanks go to the VEs serving at these sessions: Rich, KD7GIE, Claire, N7CM, Ernie, K7EAJ, Raul, N7BAR, Everett, W6ABM, Scott, W7IZ, Will, N7THL, Russ, N7QR, Jim, W7JMM, John, KE7WNB, Paul KC7PMU, and Jim, WD7H.

Our next session will be Saturday June 6 at SeaPac.

73

Carl WS7L

LUNCH BUNCH

Join us for LUNCH BUNCH

Saturday, June 26, 2009

Noon

Stub Stewart State Park

Field Day

Lunch

Information?

Linda KC7YTD

503.246.8879

MAP HAMS IN A ZIP CODE

Michael Carroll N4MC from Woodbridge, Virginia has an interesting web page for hams at www.vanityhq.com. His blog can be reached from the site...as well as locating the most recent call signs issued...and information on a single call. He has a link to Operation CQ on the site.

Find other hams in your community, or any Zip Code of your choice, by link to this URL: www.vanityhq.com/index-hamlocator.html

I just used this site to locate hams and clubs in the two areas of Hawaii I will be in during June. Planning to visit family somewhere...or attending a business conference in another city...drop the Zip Code into Michael's search box and you'll know who's there.

Of course, the site is the premier location for following your application for a vanity call sign. You can see who else wants that call and have an idea how quickly your application might bear fruit.

— Everett W6ABM

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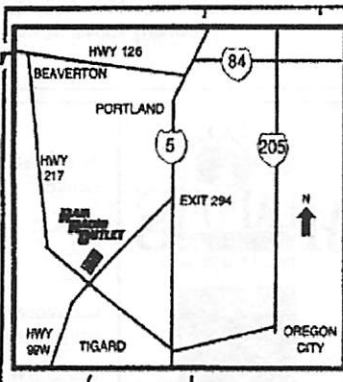


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HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**5 - 7 JUNE 2009****SEA-PAC****NW DIV. ARRL CONVENTION**

Seaside Convention Center

Seaside Oregon

www.seapac.org[Its not too late to register
online at www.seapac.org]**18 July 2009****Coos County Hamfest**

North Bend Middle School

1500 16th Street

North Bend, OR

Coos County Radio Club

www.coosradioclub.net

Marilyn Mansker KE7OAM

96900 Sitkum Lane

Myrtle Point, OR 97458

Phone: 541-572-3406

ke7oam@yahoo.com**9 - 12 OCTOBER 2009****Pacific NW VHF Conf**<http://pnwvhfs.org>

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Scott Honaker, N7SS

14014 89th Avenue SE

Snohomish, WA 98296

425-330-5439

Fax: 360-668-6073

n7ss@arrl.net**Happy June Birthday**

1	Alan R. Morse	
2	Dennis Newton	AC7UY
4	Leonard Thompson	KA7IOB
8	Darwin Durr	K7PSD
11	Hanford VanNess	KE7BB
17	Gordon Sykes	KE7ERY
21	Claire Johnson	N7CM
22	Dick Millager	KA7SPS
22	Ronald M. Corkum	KE7FWV
23	Bob Orr	WF7Q
30	Maureen O'Rourke	KA7LAP
30	Thomas Dixon	KE7FTE

Have we missed your
birthday?
Likely we do not have your
correct date in our database.

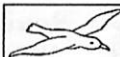
Send updates and corrections
to otvarc@gmail.com

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FIELD DAY, from Page 1

VHF/UHF operations are being handled by Jim Schaeffer (KB7ADH) and if you want to work CW on HF you'll need to get in touch with Carl Clawson (WS7L). They are both listed on your Most recent Club Roster.

Our Educational Activity this year will be working on the old and new OTVARC trailers to bring them more operational for emergency operations. You are asked to bring your tool belts and stand by to be assigned duties. Further details of the exact mission parameters at the June OTVARC meeting. That date is the deadline for meal reservations.

There is a schedule of events posted at:
www.otvarc.org/FieldDay/FD08PrintableSchedule.htm

The Talk-In frequencies this year are Club Repeaters 146.960 and 440.350 (128.0). If you are within simplex range of the park, please use 147.540.

Our Operational Frequency on site will be 446.660 MHz simplex.

Field Day will be the program for our Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, June 10th at The Peppermill Restaurant.

Further questions should be directed to Field Day Coordinator J. D. Fort K7JDF k7jdf@arrl.net.

CLUB BOARD MEETINGS

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club now has more than 200 members. However, at any monthly meeting or event there are 50 to 70 members present. In order to provide for orderly decision-making and attention to details important to maintain our corporate status, our By-Laws assign these tasks to the nine persons we elect to serve as our Board of Directors each December.

Want to know more about what is happening at the leadership level? Every member is welcome at the fourth Wednesday Board Meeting. If you have a concern and cannot attend a meeting...contact a member of the Board to carry your concern or write to the Board at the club address.

DIGITAL TELEVISION

Congress has set June 12, 2009 as the final deadline for terminating analog broadcasts. Under the law, on Feb. 17, some full-power broadcast television stations in the United States stopped broadcasting analog signals and began broadcasting only in digital.

Digital television is available now. If you watch over-the-air television, you should be able to receive all or most of your local stations' digital signals if you have a DTV receiver. You may view high definition and multicast programming from your local stations.

The Commission's digital tuner rule specifies that as of March 1, 2007, all new TVs must include digital tuners. This rule prohibits the manufacture, import, or interstate shipment of any device containing an analog tuner, unless it also contains a digital tuner.



Standard Definition TV (SDTV) - SDTV is the basic level of quality display and resolution

for both analog and digital. Transmission of SDTV may be in either the traditional (4:3) or widescreen (16:9) format.

Enhanced Definition TV (EDTV) - EDTV is a step up from Analog Television. EDTV comes in 480p



widescreen (16:9) or traditional (4:3) format and provides better picture quality than SDTV, but not as high as HDTV.



High Definition TV (HDTV) - HDTV in widescreen format (16:9) provides the highest resolution and picture

quality of all digital broadcast formats. Combined with digitally enhanced sound technology, HDTV sets new standards for sound and picture quality in television. HDTV and digital TV are not the same thing — HDTV is one format of digital TV.

www.seapac.org

June 5 - 7, 2009

Seaside Oregon

NORTHWESTERN DIVISION ARRL CONVENTION
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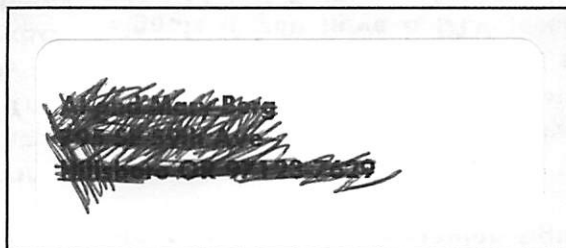
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CLUB MEETING
JUNE 10TH